RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

# RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

November 1986 232 Ogden Avenue — Jersey City, N.J. 07307 — (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL.

## Constitution Draws Crowd

The October meeting of the R.N.A. was well attended. Besides the usual subjects of interest, the main topic of discussion was the completed draft of our proposed Constitution.

Before we could digest the import of this document we were given a brief update, on many items. Vito Brunetti, our Chairman, informed the members that the long awaited report on Mountain Road will be issued shortly by the City's Engineering Dept. and will be presented to the public for edification. Next was a report of a meeting some of our neighbors had with Councilman Aviles to obtain information concerning their rights as tenants. We briefly covered the issue of the repair garage on Griffith St., which is awaiting a Court date to resolve a conflict between its owners and some residents who live close to the garage.

(Continued on page 2)

## RNA Constitution — Ellen Boggs

In the effort to legitimize the RNA as an organization, and strengthen the meaning of votes taken by RNA in the larger context of the city-wide community, RNA is determined to have a constitution. Progress toward that goal was made at Tuesday, October 14th's RNA meeting, at which the latest draft of the RNA constitution was discussed. For the most part, the group seemed to approve the language the current document contains. The areas of possible contention included: whether or not membership should be defined by paying annual dues, and what percentage of the membership should determine a quorum in order to take binding votes. The executive committee urges all RNA members to read a copy of the constitution, as RNA would like to vote on its acceptance at the next RNA general meeting on November 11. If you do not have a copy, please call Ellen Boggs at 420-0909, and she will arrange to get one to you. Unless there are strenous objections on the part of the membership, the executive committee would like to have an approved constitution incorporating the suggestions of the membership before the end of the year, so that RNA can proceed with incorporating, if that is the consensus of the RNA.

## Let Us Give Thanks

Ancient and modern cultures around the world all celebrate a harvest festival, giving thanks to the powers that be for the bounty of the earth. The ancient Greeks paid homage to Demeter, goddess of the harvest; the Romans, Ceres. Harvest festivals were not uncommon throughout Europe. Rooted in tradition, Gov. William Bradford of Plymouth colony issued a Thanksgiving proclamation in the autumn of 1621 to celebrate the first harvest in a new land. The Pilgrims and Indians, in a spirit of brotherhood and cooperation, held a three-day celebration with feasting and games. Thanksgiving was celebrated sporadically until, on November 26, 1789, President Washington issued a proclamation of a national day of Thanksgiving to be celebrated by all denominations as a day of prayer and giving thanks to God, a decision that helped promote a spirit of common heritage.

It wasn't until the 1800's, through the personal efforts of Sarah J. Hale, editor and founder of "Ladies Magazine", in Boston, that President Lincoln was persuaded to declare the last Thursday in November as the official date. Succeeding Presidents followed his example. In 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed Thanksgiving Day a week earlier – on the fourth but not the last Thursday – to encourage holiday shopping. Congress adopted a joint resolution in 1941, setting the date on the fourth Thursday.

A traditional Thanksgiving dinner takes place yearly at the White House, and in almost every American home. Roast turkey and pumpkin pie are among the symbols of this festival. Schools and businesses close for this day of family reunion and national, rather than individual, giving of thanks.

R. Gerber

CONSTITUTION . . . (continued from page 1)

Maria Tuzzo gave the Community Awareness Report concerning the Newsletter, giving special thanks to those who were most instrumental in the October Publication. We voted to support a group of area children in their efforts to build a skateboard run in the park, and then turned the floor over to Ellen Boggs, Chairman of the Constitution Committee.

Ellen highlighted the main articles of the proposed Constitution, i.e., what constitutes a member, who is eligible to vote; what is a quorum and what percentage of membership needs to be present to make a vote legal. These seemed to give rise to the most thought provoking comments. Other articles deal with election of officers; our organization, remaining non-political; our geographic bounderies, etc. It may seem at first to be a simple document to govern our Association, but this draft took the Committee about nine months, and it will take us about two or three more months to finalize a lasting Constitution for the R.N.A.

So, if you care about your home and your neighborhood, why not join us on Tuesday, November 11th, at the Harborview Health Care Center at 7:30 p.m. We welcome you and your opinion. Wouldn't you like to know first hand how the issues under discussion turn out?!!!

Secretary

Maria E. Tuzzo

P.S. My personal applause to the Constitution Committee for a job well done.

Below are some word pictures. Each one represents a very familiar statement. Can you solve the puzzle to find the statement for each? The answers are on page 3.

## NOODLE-DOODLES

1 MIND / MATTER

2 NEFRIENDED

3 EVER EVER EVER EVER DAY

4 $H_2O$ / BOULDER

# UNDER the chair

1) Our annual Fall Harvest Party for the Harbor View residents will be held on Friday, November 14th starting at 2:30 p.m. in the health care facility's dining room. This festivity is RNA's way of saying thanks to the Harbor View for allowing us to hold our monthly meetings in their building. We need volunteers and baked goods for the party (non-sugar items only). Mrs. Tuzzo has graciously accepted to supervise the affair. Harbor View will provide entertainment for the residents. Please contribute to this worthy enterprise.

2) Jersey City is finally taking the owner of the garage at 33-35 Griffith Street to court for operating a body-repair business in violation of the building code. Technically speaking, the owner is operating a business without a proper certificate of occupancy. The case will be heard on Friday, November 14th at 1:30 PM in the Housing Court. As we went to print, the owner has still not corrected any of the concerns of the group, which include: the paint fumes escaping into the neighborhood, the the parking of cars on the sidewalk, and the leaving of cars overnite on the street.

3) Stanley Huang of the Engineering Department has told RNA of the results of an unreleased report on Mountain Road. The main recommendations are as follows:

a) the road should be resurfaced with asphalt,
b) the road should be one way and one lane,
c) the sidewalk and retaining wall should be rehabilitated,
d) there should be a traffic lite installed at the bottom of the hill, and
e) the renovation work should cost approximately $500,000.

Mr. Huang said he plans to come to an upcoming RNA meeting and discuss these recommendations with the group.

4) RNA has learned that the back taxes owed on the 206-208 Ogden Ave. property have been paid. There was a question about whether the taxes, totaling approx. $121,000., were paid

(Continued on page 3)

THE CHAIR . . .(Continued from page 2)

before the current construction of two two-family houses had begun. The Tax Lien office of the Dept. of Business Adminstration confirmed that the taxes were paid in Sept., 1986.

5) Congratulations are in order for one of our members, Anne Hart of Ogden Ave. for her unrelenting work to save Tumulty Park. As reported in the Jersey Journal of Oct. 21, the park land was mistakenly sold to a developer in a land auction three years ago. Becasue of Anne's efforts the City is filing a lawsuit to recover this land from the developer and return it to the Green Acres registry.

6) The following is an excerpt of a Jersey Journal editorial written by Helen Manogue, chairperson of the Hoboken Environmental Committee on Oct. 22. Although it is written about Hoboken, the article applies just as much to the situation in Jersey City: "Runaway development is not the salvation of Hoboken. It is going to cost us - dearly. Before we give away any more permits or variances for 16- or 18-story buildings, or allow more additions to five-story buildings, we must know what it will cost us. The way to start is simple.

a) The Board of Adjustments- which grants variances for these projects-must immediately obtain the services of a qualified planning consultant to perform independent impact analyses for all products coming before the board.

b) The board must not just consider the single application before them but the impact of all the development approved and proposed.

c) We must stop thinking of Hoboken as a little bit of Main St. U.S.A. We need to wake up. We're dealing with the big boys who have lots of money to spread around to influence voters and votes. We can't continue to be led along by the nose by the developers' "experts." We need to have a full-time planning department which will be available to do traffic studies and cost analyses in a timely fashion. We need to have a growth management plan for the city.

d) We cannot afford to be fooled again. We must stop giving our city away in the vague hope that the ratables will cover the costs."

7) The four-family building at 269 Ogden Ave. is for sale for about $275,000. There is nothing unusual about this until one looks a little closer at the situation. The building was purchased by its present owners, M. Buryk and M. Pierro for approx. $125,000. a few years ago. Since the spring of 1986 they have been trying to sell the building. What makes this rather large jump in value even more startling is that both owners are board members of the local N.H.S. whose philosophy is to support and encourage affordable housing for local residents. Is it a cliche to say: one should practice what one preaches?

8) In the last two weeks of October, the Division of Forestry has cut down three trees in Riverview Park. Two of the trees were dead: the one at the SW corner of Ogden and Bauer and the other on Palisade, across from Solo Studios. The third tree, also on Palisade, was growing at a dangerous angle into the street. Nick Polanin, the City Forester, has committed to plant three young healthy trees to replace these trees.

9) A reminder to all our members: please check your mailing label and let us know if there are any corrections. Inform us if anybody receiving the newsletter has moved out of the neighborhood. Also give us the name and address of any new people to add to our list.

10) RNA would like to wish all of our members and friends a healthy and happy Thanksgiving. It is at this time of year that we should all appreciate the combined efforts of our group to improve the quality of our lives and our neighborhood. We can all be proud of our achievements.

**Answers to Doodles on page 2.**

1. **Mind Over Matter**
2. **A Friend In Need.**
3. **Forever and A Day.**
4. **Water Over the Dam.**

# CONRAD'S Corner

We've heard so much of developing the waterfront from out-of-town builders, the Chamber of Commerce, and politicians for more ratables. Now some of our most influential environmentalists are even saying we should develop it to its fullest potential. All of which sounds almost insane with a bursting 17 million population in the Metropolitan area about to become 3 million more or 20 million by 1990, equal to the entire population of Canada - all within a 25 mile radius of New York City. While the Russians are decentralizing their cities to minimize destruction from an atomic bomb we're building the biggest one shot target imaginable.

The solution they say will be more mass transit instead of cars in this age of the automobile now cluttering up our highways. New Jersey's streets and highways are the most heavily traveled of any state in the nation, carrying four times more cars per mile than the national average. The idea of building condominiums and office space ad-infinitum is like putting all our eggs in one basket. What will happen when the supply exceeds the demand, will all this frenzied development come to a screeching halt? Will the developers of unsold condominiums default on their mortgage payments to the banks? Who will support the vast army of workers suddenly cut off from their well paying jobs? Will it be 1929 all over again?

The Redevelopment Agency, so eager to rehabilitate our run down City, had been blighting large areas in the hopes of getting developers to rebuild them. When rent ceilings were placed on multiple dwellings it ushered in the idea of condominium conversions and out-of-town developers began making a 70% profit. At this point our planners should have blown the whistle on limiting density but our politicians, giving out tax abatements to developers like drunken sailors, suddenly found our City having a 20 million dollar deficit. They had been giving the developers carte-blanche on unlimited development in order to overcome a deficit. At the present time there isn't the slightest thought on the part of our administration to have the planners figure out a way to limit density. Out-of-town builders are speeding up construction to finish their jobs so that they can get out from under before the crash comes.

The State Department of Transportation is comfortably working on studies like the 8 million dollar one on ferry service which will support state check collecting bureaucrats for another four years and building another tunnel across the Hudson may take ten.

If we cut down development of the waterfront to a bare minimum now we may be able to head off an astronomical crisis of trying to support 3 million more people in the area without jobs. And when it comes to making up the deficit you can bet it will be our one and two family homeowners who will be saddled with the bill.

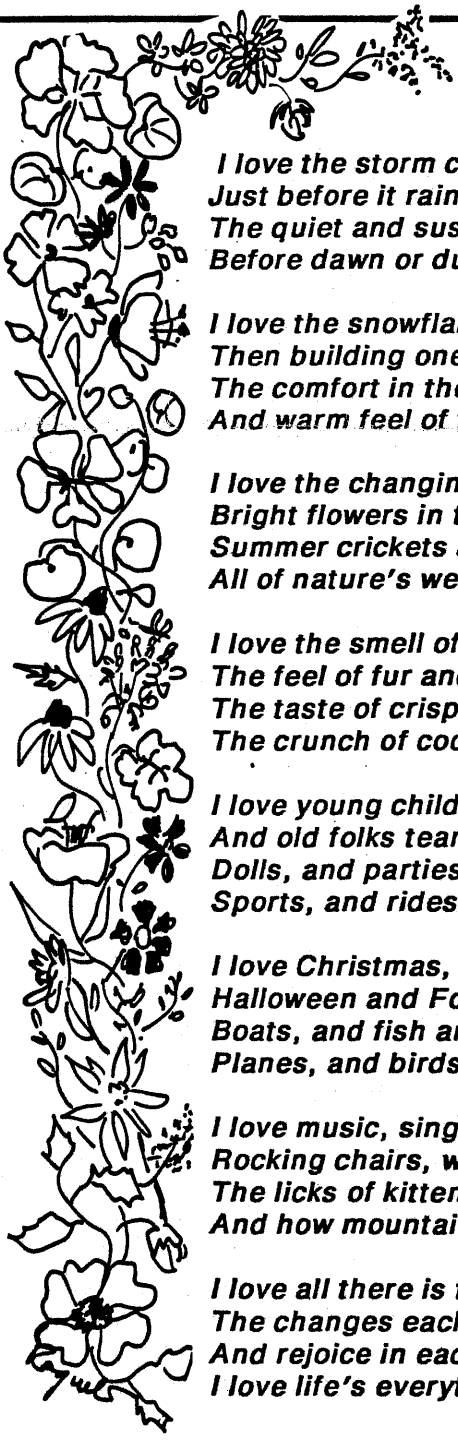
Theodore Conrad

## FOOD DRIVE

RNA is sponsoring a Drive to collect non-perishable food stuffs to be given to a local church or Organization, yet to be named, for distribution to those in need of this assistance. We urge you to bring your contribution to the next general meeting on November 11th, at the Harborview Health Care Center. This is a marvelous opportunity to show your concern for less fortunate individuals.

Thank you for any help you can give.

Maria Tuzzo



## *To Life*

*Maria Tuzzo*

*I love the storm clouds gathering*
*Just before it rains*
*The quiet and suspended time*
*Before dawn or dusk again.*

*I love the snowflakes melting*
*Then building one on one*
*The comfort in the brightness*
*And warm feel of the sun.*

*I love the changing leaves in fall*
*Bright flowers in the spring*
*Summer crickets and butterflies*
*All of nature's weathering.*

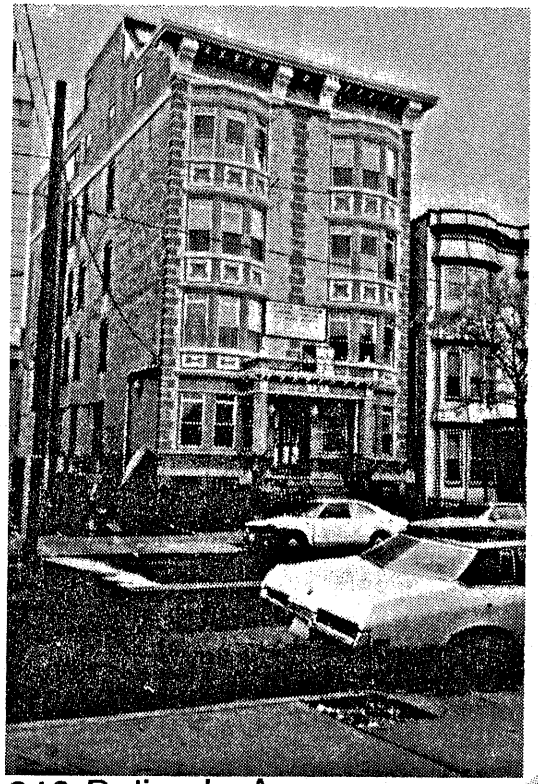
*I love the smell of roses*
*The feel of fur and silk*
*The taste of crisp red apples*
*The crunch of cookies with milk.*

*I love young children's laughter*
*And old folks tears of joy*
*Dolls, and parties, and pigtails*
*Sports, and rides, and toys.*

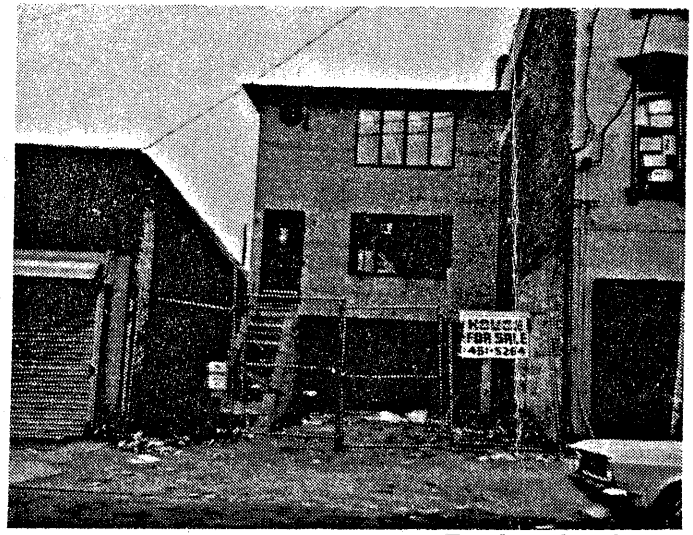
*I love Christmas, Easter, Thanksgiving,*
*Halloween and Fourth of July*
*Boats, and fish and water*
*Planes, and birds and the sky.*

*I love music, singing and birthdays,*
*Rocking chairs, warm beds, good books*
*The licks of kittens and puppies*
*And how mountains and beaches look.*

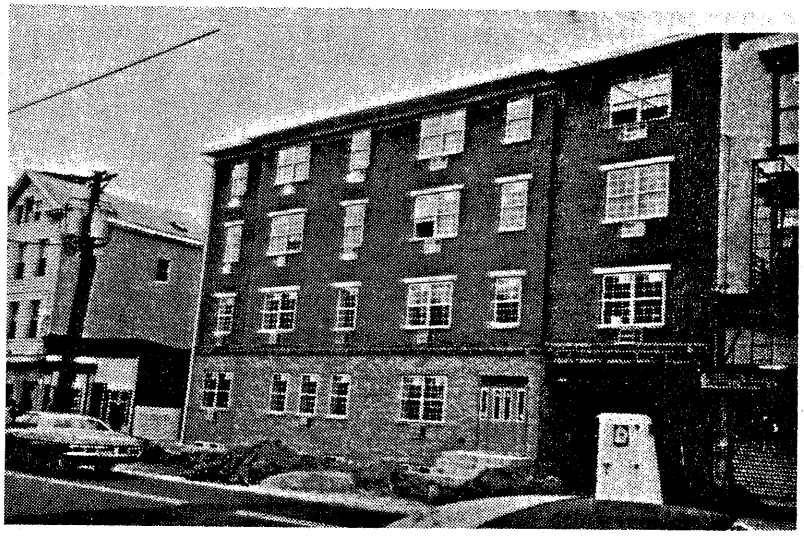
*I love all there is that surrounds me*
*The changes each season brings*
*And rejoice in each new tomorrow*
*I love life's everything.*



310 Palisade Ave.

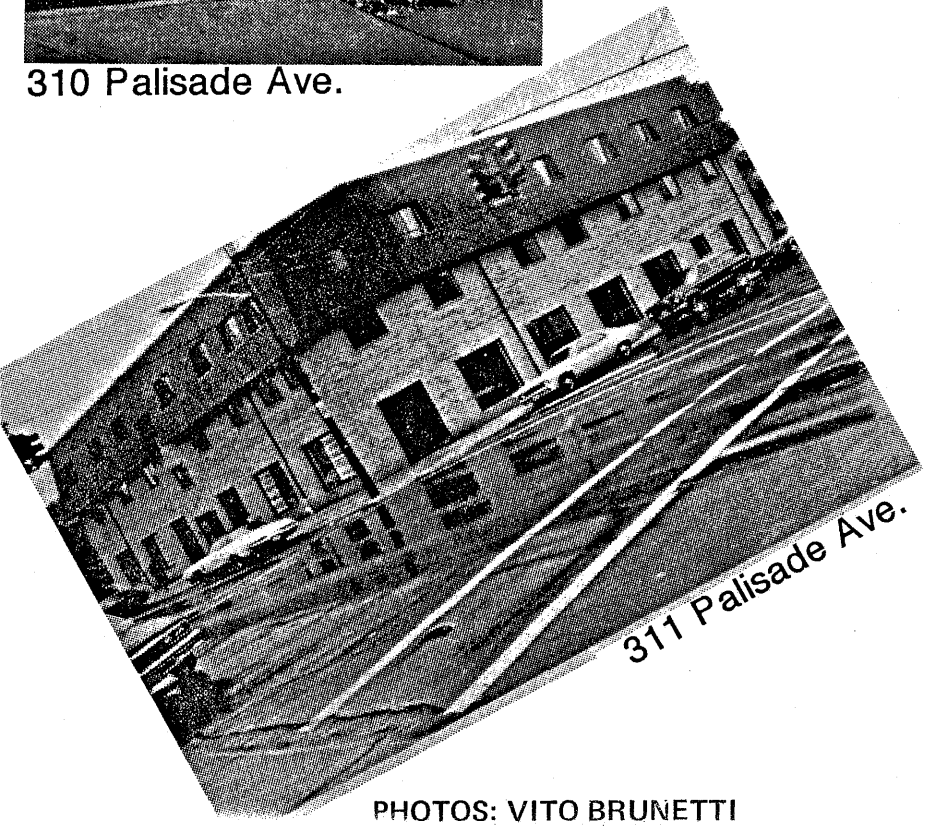



373 Palisade Ave.

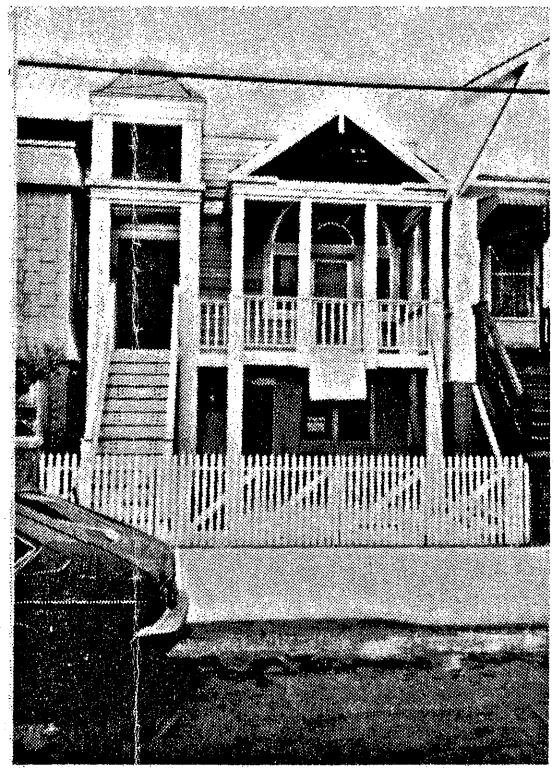


358 Palisade Ave.

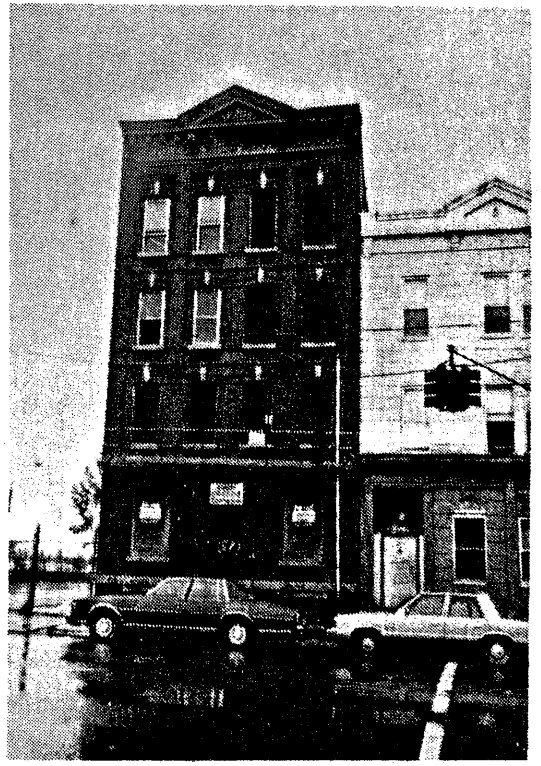
# Pictures of some of the new and renovated construction in our area



311 Palisade Ave.



179 Ogden Ave.



316 Palisade Ave.

PHOTOS: VITO BRUNETTI

Happy Thanksgiving

rise

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# RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

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